



ecology and environment, inc.

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January 20, 1999

Ms. Gail Nabasny, START Project Officer
Emergency Support Section
United States Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard - HSE-5J
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: Cometco Oil Facility
Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
TDD: S05-9811-002
PAN: 8B0201SIXX

Dear Ms. Nabasny:

The Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E), Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START), was tasked by the Emergency Response Branch of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), under the Technical Direction Document (TDD) number S05-9811-002, to conduct a site assessment for the Cometco Oil Facility (Cometco), located in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois (Attachment A, Figure 1). START was tasked to prepare and implement a health and safety plan; compile and review background information; subcontract analytical services; document site condition; perform multi-media sampling; evaluate threats to human health and the environment; and make recommendations to U.S. EPA as to the potential need for a removal action, further investigation, referral to other government agencies or U.S. EPA programs, or other actions which may be prudent. The site assessment was performed in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), following 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 300.415, paragraph (b)(2), to evaluate on-site conditions and potential threats to human health and the environment. The site assessment was conducted on November 10, 1998, under the authority of U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Paul Steadman. This report provides background information about the Cometco site and summarizes the START site assessment activities.

The Cometco facility is located at 1509 W. Cortland Street, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The geographic coordinates of the facility are latitude 87°39'53.7" W and longitude 41°54'56.5" N. The facility is one of seven scrap metal facilities operated by Cozzi Iron and Metal, Inc. (Cozzi), in Chicago. Cometco currently operates as a scrap metal storage and separating facility for Cozzi's four shredding facilities in the area. The primary activities conducted at the Cometco facility include the separation of ferrous from nonferrous metal scraps and bailing of scrap for transport. The site occupies approximately 0.75 acre and is bordered by the Chicago River to the east, commercial property to the west (along Elston Avenue), W. Cortland Street to the north, and railroad tracks to the south.